

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06407 210837Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----006006 210845Z /10
O 210800Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEIDATE 2428

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6407

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BBAK
SUBJECT: BOEING COMPANY'S REPLY TO SEC COMPLAINT

REF: STATE 181040

1. ECON COUNSELOR PASSED SUBSTANCE OF PARA. 10 OF REFTTEL TO EPB ASSISTANT MINISTER CHOE SUN RAY. CHOE SAID IT WAS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER AND HE WOULD INFORM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IMMEDIATELY.

2. SUBSTANCE OF BOEING STATEMENT SEEMS GUARDED, BUT IN CASE OF KOREA, THERE IS ONLY ONE AIRLINE. MOREOVER, THE STATEMENT THAT BOEING PAID ITS CONSULTANT FOR THE ACCOUNT OF AN EMPLOYEE OF THE AIRLINE COULD ONLY INVOLVE ONE OF THE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE AIRLINE. HENCE, THE STORY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE A STORM.

3. CHOE SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED TO SAY HE HAD SEEN THE DPM, WHO ALSO REGARDED THE MATTER AS VERY SERIOUS. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS TRUE (WE POINTED OUT TO CHOE THAT BOEING WAS UNLIKELY TO ADMIT SOMETHING UNLESS IT WAS). THE DPM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CHO CHOONG-HOON OF KOREAN AIRLINES. THE DPM WAS NOT, AT THAT POINT, CLEAR IN HIS OWN MIND HOW TO HANDLE THE MATTER. WE
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EXPECT TO HEAR MORE AND WILL REPORT AS WE DO. GLEYSTEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL06407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780299-1225
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780733/aaaabbrk.tel
Line Count: 56
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ee2146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 181040
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1925432
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOEING COMPANY'S REPLY TO SEC COMPLAINT
TAGS: BBAK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ee2146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014